

Elk on the Edge

Once almost extinct in California, Roosevelt elk are now making a comeback here in the parks. In the “ecotone,” where the forest meets the grassland, herds of elk forage for food. Although they prefer to graze on grasses or herbs in the open areas, they also browse for plants and shrubs in the forest interior and along the forest edge. Elk seek protection from weather and predators in the nearby woods.

From the late 1800s to the mid-1900s, this land was part of the Arthur Davison family dairy ranch. This former pasture, where cattle and sheep once grazed, still contains non-native grasses introduced by the ranchers. When the ranch became part of the national park, herds of elk that lived in the old-growth forest to the north started migrating here.

This exhibit funded by:

